

RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON **THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016** AT 7:00 AM IN THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL. STATUTORY NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Ditkoff (Chairman), Ms. Scotto (Vice Chairman) by phone, Mr. Chang, Ms. Charlupski, Mr. Glover, Dr. Jackson, Mr. Pollak, Ms. Stone, and Ms. Stram. Staff present: Dr. Fischer-Mueller, Dr. Shmukler, Mr. Lummis, and Ms. Coyne.

Ms. Ditkoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM. She announced that Ms. Scotto will be participating remotely, by phone, because she has determined that geographic distance makes Ms. Scotto's physical attendance unreasonably difficult.

**1. CONTINUE TO REVIEW FEEDBACK/INPUT REGARDING THE FINALIST CANDIDATES**

Ms. Stram, Ms. Scotto, and Ms. Charlupski reported back on their conversations with people who have worked with Mr. Sills and Mr. Bott. The feedback on both candidates was overwhelmingly favorable. Both candidates were described as thoughtful, innovative, respectful leaders who care deeply about our core values (high achievement for all, excellence in teaching, collaboration, respect for human differences, and educational equity). School Committee members offered their initial thoughts. There was agreement that we have two outstanding candidates. Members noted that Mr. Sills has more high school experience and that Mr. Bott has more elementary experience; Mr. Sills has three years' experience as a Superintendent of a relatively small community where he was responsible for many central administration functions; Mr. Bott does not have central administration experience, but has experience leading and managing large, diverse schools, including a turn-around school; both candidates have experience in Brookline, with Mr. Bott's experience being more recent.

Dr. Jackson noted that all School Committee members received a summary of the feedback/input from the Finalist Review Committee and everyone else who submitted feedback. Mr. Bott and Mr. Sills received excellent ratings. Mr. Bott was seen as an inspirational leader and Mr. Sills was seen as someone who would bring experience to the table and help us move forward.

A number of School Committee members felt that Mr. Sills's experience might be preferable to address our short-term concerns, but that Mr. Bott's combination of experience and vision would serve us better for the long-term. Mr. Bott has been described in the following ways: an inspirational and visionary leader, excellent listener, very respectful, bright, enthusiastic, bold in his thinking, articulate, collaborative, a strong decision maker, figures things out quickly, has a personal connection with students and teachers, is excellent at attracting and keeping staff, data driven, empathetic, able to engage parents and the community, and has experience in problem solving.

Members acknowledged that Mr. Bott lacks central administration experience and might need supports in some areas, but felt that he was a visionary leader who would be able to move the system forward, bring us to new places, and be the future of the Public Schools of Brookline.

Ms. Stram and Ms. Stone agreed with many of the comments, but felt they needed more time to consider the feedback and input and whether they should appoint a candidate best suited to address the near- and mid-term or the long-term issues. Ms. Charlupski felt that while we have two great candidates, Mr. Sills has more administrative, budgetary and capital experience and that this will help us address our current needs.

The Committee proceeded to vote on a preferred candidate to become the next superintendent of the Public Schools of Brookline. Ms. Ditkoff, Ms. Scotto, Mr. Chang, Mr. Glover, Dr. Jackson, and Mr. Pollak voted for Mr. Bott; Ms. Charlupski voted for Mr. Sills; and Ms. Stone and Ms. Stram abstained from the vote because they wanted additional time to consider the input before making a decision. On March 10, 2016 the School Committee will make a final vote to appoint a superintendent, subject to successful contract negotiations.

## **2. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ditkoff adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin E. Coyne, Executive Assistant  
Brookline School Committee